



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

FUNAOKA et al

Group Art Unit: 1732

Serial No.: 10/649,732

Examiner: Allan R Kuhns

Filed: August 28, 2003

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 5706

For: MICROPOROUS POLYOLEFIN MEMBRANE, AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: April 12, 2006

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of March 13, 2005, requiring restriction between two alleged inventions under the provisions of 35 USC § 121.

In the Action, the examiner made a restriction requirement between the inventions of **Group I** drawn to a method of producing a microporous polyolefin membrane (claims 12-29); and **Group II** drawn to a battery or battery separator (Claims 30-31).

Applicants hereby provisionally elect **Group I, that is, claims 12-29**, for examination on the merits in this application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Serial No. 10/649,732
OA dated March 13, 2006
Response dated April 12, 2006

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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